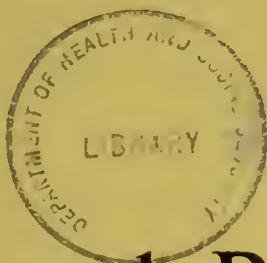




BOROUGH OF BOSTON
and
BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for the year 1968.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

At 1st January, 1968.

After 20th May, 1968.

Councillor B. J. Veal,
Chairman.

The Mayor, Councillor
B. J. Veal, J.P.,
Chairman.

Councillor J. Brockelsby,
Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Norman H.
Hughes,
Vice-Chairman.

The Mayor, Councillor
C. H. Atterby, J.P.

Alderman Mrs. Alice S.
Johnson, M.B.E.,
J.P.

Alderman Mrs. Alice S.
Johnson, M.B.E.,
J.P.

„ Mrs. B. M. Roe,
J.P.

„ R. G. M. Moulder

„ Mrs. E. M.
Valentine

„ Mrs. B. M. Roe,
J.P.

Councillor C. H. Atterby

„ Mrs. E. M.
Valentine

„ Thos. B.
Balderston, J.P.

Councillor J. H. Dell

„ J. H. Dell

„ B. Eyre

„ B. Eyre

„ Alan Foster.

„ Alan Foster

„ Norman H. Hughes

„ John Howlett

„ John J. Parker

„ John J. Parker

„ G. G. A. Whitehead

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Port Health Inspector :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.A.P.H.I.

**Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Port Health
Inspector :**

D. H. MILSOM, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Port Health Inspector :

C. D. BOWRAN, Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

Meat Inspector :

A. T. FAIRGRIEVE,

Scottish Cert. Insp. of Meat and Other Foods.

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

P. JACKSON

Chief Clerk :

D. DADY.

Junior Clerks :

R. A. BLANCHARD

M. M. GRANTHAM

(Resigned 28th April, 1968).

C. R. MAWER

(Appointed 6th May, 1968)

Typist (part-time) :

Mrs. N. HILDRED

BOROUGH OF BOSTON

AND

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To :—**The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.**

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population was 25,050, 60 more than in the previous year. The natural increase in the population for 1968, that is to say the excess of births over deaths was 101.

There were 410 births during the year and of these 44 were illegitimate, 5 more than in the previous year. This represented nearly 11% of all births. The Crude Birth Rate was 16.4 whilst the Corrected Birth Rate was 16.6. The figure for England and Wales was 16.9. There were 7 Still Births during 1968. This gave a Still Birth Rate of 16.8 compared with the National figure of 14. During the year 9 infants under the age of 1 year died. This gave a figure of 22.0 for the Infant Mortality Rate compared with 18 for England and Wales. Of these 9 deaths, 7 occurred in the first four weeks of life. The Neonatal Mortality Rate was 17.1 as against 12.3 for England and Wales. The total number of Still Births and Deaths under 4 weeks amounted to 13 which gave a Perinatal Mortality Rate of 31.2 compared with 25 for England and Wales.

There were 309 deaths during 1968, 30 more than in the previous year. This gave a Corrected Death Rate of 13.2 compared with 11.9 for England and Wales. There were 169 deaths associated with Heart and Circulatory Diseases amounting to 55% of the deaths. Whilst almost equal numbers of

males and females died from Cerebro-Vascular Disease twice as many males died from Ischaemic (or Coronary) Heart Disease. There were 43 deaths due to Malignant Disease representing 14% of all deaths. 9 deaths were due to Lung Cancer and again they were all males. Deaths from Respiratory Diseases amounted to 44 or 14% of the total deaths.

Infectious diseases did not constitute a major problem during 1968. Chicken Pox with 51 cases was the commonest disease followed by Measles with 45, Pneumonia 35 and Scabies 33. There were only 4 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year.

During the year there was again the closest co-operation with the County Health Department and the Public Health Laboratory Service and its Director, Dr. Croll, were most helpful in advising on all matters referred.

I wish to acknowledge the support given by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee; the staff of the Health Department and Mr. Chamberlain for assistance in preparing the report; and the other Chief Officers together with their staffs for all their assistance and co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

G. HIRD

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.
Telephone No. 4601 (six lines).
September, 1969.

Part 1

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

GENERAL STATISTICS :—

Area (in acres)	3,259
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1968)	25,050
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1968 (according to the Rate Books)	8,887
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1969	£1,092,229
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Est. 1969-70)	£4,410
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House	2.8
Estimated average number of Persons per acre ...	7.7
Average number of Inhabited Houses per acre ...	2.7

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC :—

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS :—

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	186	180	366
Illegitimate	21	23	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Live Births	207	203	410
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)			16.4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)			16.6
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births ...			10.7
Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	—	5
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Still Births	7	—	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...			16.8

	Male	Female	Total
Total Live and Still Births	214	203	417
Infant Deaths			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	6	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3	6	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rates :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	22.0
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.6
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age			
Legitimate	2	5	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2	5	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ... 17.1

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age			
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2	4	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births 14.6

Perinatal Mortality

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week	9	4	13
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			31.2

Maternal Mortality

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	2.4

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths			
All Causes	171	138	309
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)			12.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)			13.2

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :—

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for mid-1968 was 25,050, an increase of 60 on the figure given for the previous year which was 24,990. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 101.

BIRTHS :—

There were 410 live births during the year in the Borough, 207 males and 203 females. 44 were illegitimate. The Live Birth Rate was 16.4 and the adjusted Rate 16.6. The Live Birth Rate for England and Wales was 16.9.

STILL BIRTHS :—

There were 7 Still Births during the year. The Still Birth Rate was 16.8. The figure for England and Wales was 14.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

There was 1 death from this cause during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY :—

There were 9 deaths of infants under 1 year of age. Of these, 6 died under the age of 1 week. The Infant Mortality Rate was 22.0 compared with 18 for England and Wales.

PERINATAL MORTALITY :—

This is a combination of Still Births and Deaths under 4 weeks. The total for 1968 was 13 which gave a Perinatal Mortality Rate of 31.2 compared with 25 for England and Wales.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

There were 309 deaths in the Borough during 1968, 171 males and 138 females. This gave an Adjusted Death Rate of 13.2 compared with the National figure of 11.9.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates. in Borough of Boston, 1954-1968.

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rates	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates	Average 5 years		
						Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1954	432	17.7	259	10.6	30.1	17.2	10.0	30.4
1955	379	15.6	254	10.4	29.0			
1956	438	18.1	238	9.8	29.7			
1957	429	17.9	204	8.5	25.6			
1958	401	16.6	262	10.8	37.4			
1959	390	16.1	275	11.3	25.6	16.9	11.2	20.6
1960	429	17.5	286	11.7	16.3			
1961	416	16.7	278	11.2	16.8			
1962	414	16.6	265	10.6	24.1			
1963	446	17.8	276	11.0	20.2			
1964	469	18.7	279	11.1	25.6	17.4	11.3	22.5
1965	465	18.5	277	11.0	17.2			
1966	420	16.7	279	11.1	28.6			
1967	423	16.9	279	11.2	18.9			
1968	410	16.4	309	12.3	22.0			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOSTON M.B., 1968.

	Cause of Death	Males	Females
B1	Cholera	—	—
B2	Typhoid fever	—	—
B3	Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis ...	—	—
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	—	—
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	—
B6	Other tuberculosis, incl. late effects ...	1	—
B7	Plague	—	—
B8	Diphtheria	—	—
B9	Whooping Cough	—	—
B10	Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	—	—
B11	Meningococcal infection	—	—
B12	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
B13	Smallpox	—	—
B14	Measles	—	—
B15	Typhus and other rickettsioses	—	—
B16	Malaria	—	—
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
B19(1)	Malignant neoplasm—stomach	3	3
B19(2)	Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus	9	—
B19(3)	Malignant neoplasm—breast	—	2
B19(4)	Malignant neoplasm—uterus	—	1
B19(5)	Leukaemia	—	2
B19(6)	Other malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	13	9
B20	Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	—	1
B21	Diabetes mellitus	1	1
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	—	—
B46(1)	Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	—	—
B23	Anaemias	1	1
B46(2)	Other diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	1	—
B46(3)	Mental disorders	—	—
B24	Meningitis	—	1
B46(4)	Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs	—	2

	Cause of Death	Males	Females
B25	Active rheumatic fever	—	—
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	1	—
B27	Hypertensive disease	2	—
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	48	26
B29	Other forms of heart disease	17	14
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	22	23
B46(5)	Other diseases of the circulatory system	6	10
B31	Influenza	1	2
B32	Pneumonia	6	9
B33(1)	Bronchitis, emphysema	8	4
B33(2)	Asthma	2	—
B46(6)	Other diseases of the respiratory system	3	2
B34	Peptic ulcer	2	1
B35	Appendicitis	—	—
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	—
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	—	1
B46(7)	Other diseases of the digestive system	2	1
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
B46(8)	Other diseases of the genito-urinary system	3	—
B40	Abortion	—	—
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	—	1
B46(9)	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	—	—
B46(10)	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	—	3
B42	Congenital anomalies	—	2
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions ...	1	1
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	1	1
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	3	11
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
BE48	All other accidents	6	1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	2	—
BE50	All other external causes	1	—
ALL CAUSES		171	138

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following summary of the weather conditions of the area for the past two years as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston.

	1968	1967
Days of measurable rain	178	179
Mean maximum temperature (average 56.5°)	55.8°	57.2°
Mean minimum temperature (air) (average 42.1°)	42.7°	42.8°
Mean day and night temperature (average 49.3°)	49.2°	50.0°
No. of days with temperatures between 70° and 79°	29	53
No. of days with temperatures 80° or over	4	4
No. of air frosts	65	42
No. of ground frosts	102	87
No. of days with snow or sleet	22	21
No. of days with hail	8	10
No. of days with thunderstorms	20	21
No. of days with fog	22	27
No. of days with winds reaching gale force	12	11

Total rainfall 29.39" against average of 23.88".

Total rainfall for 1967 : 22.53".

Greatest rainfall in one day : 2.52" on 10th July.

Highest day maximum temperature : 90° on 1st July.

Lowest night air minimum : 22° on 13th January.

Lowest grass minimum : 15° on 4th February.

Highest barometer reading : 30.65" (1038 millibars) on 10th and 11th April.

Lowest barometer reading : 29.17" (988 millibars) on 17th December.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Lincoln. Samples of ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for examination and further details of this work will be found in Sections C. and E.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :—

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the Ambulance and Transport Department, Allan House, Carlton Road, Boston.

During the year the following resources were available at the Boston Ambulance Station :—

- Emergency Ambulances 3.
- Infectious Diseases Ambulance 1.
- Car Type Transit Ambulances 3.
- Utility Ambulances 3
- Sitting Case Cars 2.
- 14 seat " Minibus " 1.
- Station Officer 1.
- Wholetime Driver/Attendants 11.

All Ambulances carry oxygen therapy apparatus and have been adapted to carry a portable incubator for small premature babies. A mechanical resuscitator is available for cases of drowning, asphyxiation, etc. Apparatus to carry out mouth to mouth resuscitation is also provided.

The equipment carried now includes bag and mask resuscitators, aspirators are being provided and the equipment now substantially conforms to the recommendations of the Ministry of Health's Working Party on Ambulance Training and Equipment Part 2.

NURSING IN THE HOME :—

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :—

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS :—

All Hospitals in the area are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee for the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :—

Boston General Hospital—Acute General.

London Road Hospital—General, Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery and Ophthalmic.

White House Hospital, Fishtoft—Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital—Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton—Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital—Sick Children.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES :—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :—

The following clinics, etc., are conducted by the Holland County Council.

Ferry House, London Road :—

Infant Welfare.

Ante-Natal.

Ophthalmic.

Dental.

Speech Therapy.

Intelligence testing and medical examinations.

Mothercraft and relaxation classes.

Allan House, Carlton Road :—

Chiropody.

Audiometric.

Home Help.

The Cleansing Station continues to function at Ferry House and further details with regard to the arrangements for the treatment of Scabies will be found in Section F of this Report.

The Child Guidance Centre is in Tower Street.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :—

No new cases requiring action under the above Section came to notice during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen,

I have pleasure in reporting upon the sanitary circumstances of the Borough during 1968.

Meat inspection started off at a very high rate, at such a level that the Meat Inspector was unable to do it all and your three Public Health Inspectors were all spending a few hours per week on this job. Thereafter it dropped off very considerably and the annual figures showed a decrease compared with 1967 in all categories except cows, which increased by over 5,600 or more than 125%. Owing to the extra time that the Public Health Inspectors spent on meat inspection in the first three months of the year it was found necessary in October to increase slightly the charges levied for this service. The charges for cattle, cows and pigs were all increased by one penny per carcase, but in each case they are still below the maximum permitted charge.

Slum clearance continued at a very moderate pace and no new areas were declared. Thirteen individual houses were dealt with, 4 by way of Demolition Orders, 7 by Closing Orders while in 2 cases undertakings to make fit were accepted. In addition, 30 families were re-housed from unfit properties, 24 houses were demolished and 7 were closed.

The Improvement Area was taken to the stage where either Immediate or Suspended Improvement Notices were served. It was disappointing that nearly 50% of the notices were Suspended Notices but in two cases, owing to a change in the occupant, it was later possible to serve a Final Improvement Notice. In two cases (one outside the Improvement Area) following the service of an Immediate Improvement Notice, the Corporation were required to purchase the property. In one of these houses the improvements were completed by the end of the year at a cost of approximately £460, plus £90 for necessary repairs.

Work was begun on a second Improvement Area on the east side of the town but insufficient progress was made for the area to be declared during 1968. With the prospect of a

new Housing Act which may considerably change the Improvement Area procedure it is likely that work on this area will be even further delayed.

With three exceptions the remaining properties were connected to the new sewerage system on the west side of the town. The one remaining unsewered area is that part of Tattershall Road beyond the railway crossing. The drainage of this area is very bad, largely owing to the fact that the ditches on each side of the road have been filled in without first being piped. This results in a general waterlogging of the area and septic tanks cease to function properly. Towards the end of the year an emergency scheme to provide surface water drainage for part of the road was approved but it is evident that a proper scheme of sewerage for the whole area is urgently needed.

There was an increase during the year of nearly 100% in the number of complaints concerning food. In my opinion this does not mean that manufacturers' standards are falling but rather that the public are becoming more aware of the fact that a complaint to the Public Health Department can do some good. None of the complainants relished court proceedings but they wanted the incident brought to the notice of the manufacturer in the hope that this might help to prevent a recurrence.

Despite the uncertainty engendered by the numerous and contradictory rumours of the impending reform of local government, the staff remained almost unchanged. Mr. M. Grantham, Junior Clerk, crossed the Wash to the Freebridge Lynn R.D.C. and he was replaced by Mr. C. R. Mawer. Mr. P. Jackson, the Pupil Public Health Inspector, was successful in the Intermediate Examination for the Public Health Inspectors' Diploma.

The year has produced no outstanding achievements but I wish to thank the Staff of the Department for twelve months steady work, Dr. Hird for his advice and support, and in particular the Public Health Committee for their courtesy and encouragement.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. Ian A. Campbell, Engineer, East Lincolnshire Water Board for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :—

1. Sources of Supply.

- (a) **Fordington** (boreholes in the Spilsby Sandstone—Safe Yield 1 m.g.d.) in the Spilsby Rural District and 4 miles north of Spilsby and approximately 20 miles from Boston.
- (b) **Revesby** (Impounding Reservoir and Catchment Area approximately 2,000 acres—safe yield 0.2 m.g.d.) in the Horncastle Rural District and approximately 12 miles from Boston.
- (c) Bulk supplies from the South Lincolnshire Water Board (Supply Points—London Road, Wyberton Low Road, and Fishtoft Road). Maximum possible quantity 1 m.g.d.

2. Rainfall.

The rainfall at Revesby during the year 1968 was 30.15 inches (Annual Average—25.33 inches).

Rainfall at Fordington in 1968 was 35.15 inches.

3. (a) Volume of Water Supplied with Comparison for 1967.

THOUSANDS OF GALLONS.

Year	Revesby	Av. G.P.D.	Fordington	Av. G.P.D.	Bulk	Av. G.P.D.	Total	Av. G.P.D.
1968	275,087	752	218,638	597	236,463	646	730,188	1,995
1967	250,606	687	237,565	650	210,379	578	698,910	1,915
+	24,481	65	—	—	26,084	68	31,278	80
—	—	—	18,927	53	—	—	—	—

N.B.—In addition to the supply to Boston Borough, the figures given above include supplies in the parishes of West Fen, Carrington, Frithville, Sibsey, Westville, Thornton-le-Fen, and Langrville in the Spilsby Rural District; the parish of Revesby in the Horncastle Rural District, and parts of the parishes of Fishtoft and Brothertoft in the Boston Rural District.

(b) Consumption for 1968.

- (i) The domestic consumption per head per day was 38 gallons.
- (ii) Total metered consumption per day 776,251 gallons.

Thus consumption for 1968 equates to 65 gallons per head per day for all purposes (including waste).

4. Quality of Water.

(i) Monthly samples of the raw and treated water passing to supply at Revesby and Fordington have been submitted to the Public Analyst at Nottingham (E. Fogden, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.) and 209 samples of the water in the mains have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Lincoln for the bacteriological analysis. No adverse reports have been received in respect of treated water passing to supply.

(ii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

5. Quantity of Water.

(i) The supply during the year was satisfactory.

(ii) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small and mainly confined to old parts of the town. Less than 1% of the approximate 8,500 houses are without piped water supply.

WATER SAMPLING BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :—

Bacteriological sampling was carried out weekly, either one or two samples being taken. In all 72 samples were taken of which one was reported as not satisfactory. Immediate re-sampling produced a satisfactory result and the likeliest cause of the unsatisfactory report was human error either in taking the sample or in the laboratory. 9 samples analysed chemically were all satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

During the year a new sewer was laid in Marsh Lane which in the near future will take sewage discharge from most of that part of the Borough lying south of the South Forty Foot Drain and the Haven and including the Marsh Lane Industrial Site.

A new sewer was also laid on the Broadfield Lane Industrial Site.

Sewers were laid on Corporation housing estates—Peck Avenue and Broadfield Lane and on private estates—South Parade, Tower Road, Fishtoft Road, Linden Way and Tollfield Road and except for the Tattershall Road area north of the railway line and a few small outlying areas of development the town is served by a reasonably efficient sewerage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :—

A regular weekly collection has been maintained and all requests for removals of refuse on changes of tenancy and extra bulk have been complied with. Tipping continues on the Old Golf Course site.

Salvage continues to be satisfactory and 864 tons of waste paper were sold.

Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1968 were :—

	£
Collection	33,357
Disposal	3,582
	<hr/>
	36,939
Less Income	10,967
	<hr/>
	£25,972
	<hr/>

Information on Drainage and Sewerage, Public Cleansing and Salvage Schemes and the statistics in Section D relating to new buildings have kindly been supplied by the Borough Surveyor, Mr. C. R. Theobald, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.I.C.S., L.R.I.B.A.

SWIMMING BATHS :—

In order to maintain a high standard of purity of the water, regular and frequent visits were made to the Public Baths. The water is frequently checked by the Baths Manager to ensure efficient chlorination and as an additional safeguard 30 samples were sent for bacteriological examination. They were all reported as satisfactory.

The four pools owned by various schools in the town were supervised by the County Health Inspector who reported that satisfactory standards were maintained.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :—

(a) **Rodent Control :—**

Once more there was an increase in the number of premises treated for infestation by rats or mice. This could be accounted for by the very wet weather, particularly towards the end of the year, forcing rats out of the dykes and into buildings. More than one third of the complaints were received during the last quarter of the year.

Generally infestations were very light and once more no major infestations were found. Even the refuse tip, which unfortunately usually supported a few rats, did not produce a major infestation.

Year	No. of Premises treated	No. of visits made
1966	258	332
1967	250	268
1968	309	314

(b) **Verminous Houses :—**

Thanks to DDT and BHC the old fashioned verminous infestation by bed bugs or fleas is almost a thing of the past. Perhaps because of this more complaints or enquiries are made about a wide variety of insects found in or around the house. If necessary these are despatched for expert identification so that suitable advice or treatment may be given.

The number of premises treated is as follows :—

Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cockroaches, Ants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

The control of rodents and insects has continued in the hands of specialist contractors who have provided a very satisfactory service.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR :—

							Inspections	Revisits and Routine Inspections
	(1957	...	...	...	...	...	61	687
Housing Act	(1961	...	...	...	...	...	1	14
	(1964	...	...	...	...	...	90	127
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	116	591
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	566
Caravan Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	144
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	383
Slaughterhouses (Structure)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	49
Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles								
Regs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	29
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	28
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Smoke Observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	24
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	28
Visits to Dock	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	274
Vessels inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	105
Dysentery and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	16
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	4
Rat Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	84
Insect Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	19
Pet Animals Act/Animal Boarding								
Establishment Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	11

Licensing Act	4	11
Chicken Inspection	—	230
Other visits or inspections	39	297
Total	464	3733

Interviews	334
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	2,313
Visits re unsound food	81

Samples Taken

Water :—	
Public Supply	81
Swimming Baths	30
Other	9
	— 120
Ice Cream	11
Mussels	23
Cockles	4
Other Foods	8

Drains

Drains Tested	69
----------------------	----

Other Public Health Work

Disinfections	1
Disinfestations	—

OFFICE WORK :—

Informal Notices

	Served	Complied with
Housing Act, 1957	43	35
Public Health Acts, 1936 & 1961	73	50
Dustbin	2	11

Statutory Notices

	Served	Complied with
Housing Act, 1957, Sect. 9 ...	Nil	Nil
Public Health Acts, 1936 & 1961	2	10
Dustbin	Nil	Nil

NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS

RECEIVED :—

Total number of complaints received ... 825

The following are details of complaints received and remedied :—

General Housing Complaints	29
Overcrowding	2
Defective W.C's.	2
Caravans	3
Fleas, Beetles, etc.	24
Ants	57
Wasps' Nests	27
Rats and Mice	323

Choked Drains and Sewers	...	...	...	288
Defective Drains	...	...	...	8
Cesspools	...	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	3
Noise Nuisances	...	...	...	3
Smell Nuisances	...	...	...	19
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	20
Unsound Food	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	14

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :—

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Undeveloped Land	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Other Items.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—

There are no registered common lodging houses in the town.

FACTORIES :—

Particulars of visits to factories are contained in the following tables.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1968 for the Borough of Boston in the County of Holland (Lincs.).

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	188	15	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	18	11	Nil	Nil
Total	211	29	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel : Making, etc.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ..	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES :—

Only one outworker is registered and the premises are satisfactory. No case of infectious disease occurred on these premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 :—

The following tables show the number of premises that have been registered and the number of persons employed in those premises. It should be noted that one man businesses and those in which only members of the proprietor's family are employed do not require registration.

The number of newly registered premises has declined steadily each year and this year the total number of registered premises has dropped slightly as well.

Either Boston is a safe place in which to work or many persons are not aware of their responsibility to report all accidents that result in an employee being off work for more than three days. Whatever the explanation, only five accidents were reported which seems a very low number to have occurred in 462 premises employing more than 3,000 persons.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of premises (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year (4)
Offices	5	136	7
Retail shops	11	265	51
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	27	5
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	34	1
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
TOTAL	18	462	64

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR.

Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	1111
Retail shops	1407
Wholesale departments, warehouses	239
Catering establishments open to the public	254
Canteens	9
Fuel storage depots	—
TOTAL	3020
TOTAL MALES	1303
TOTAL FEMALES	1717

SECTION D

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected in the Borough during the year :—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	65	62	—
(b) By the Council ...	10	78	29

Number under construction at the end of 1968 :—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	82	34	1
(b) By the Council ...	20	—	—

SLUM CLEARANCE :—

The following information shows the progress made in re-housing and demolition.

REPAIR AND DEMOLITION :—HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE.

Houses Demolished

In Clearance Areas :—

Unfit for human habitation ...	18
On land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957 ...	2

Not in Clearance Areas :—

As a result of action under section 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957 ...	6
---	---

Unfit Houses Closed

Under sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and section 26 Housing Act, 1961 ...	7
--	---

Number of Persons and Families Displaced

	No. of Persons	No. of Families
From houses in clearance areas ...	43	17
From houses not in clearance areas ...	12	6
From houses to be closed ...	25	7

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed } Number inspected } All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :	5527	10101	626	9044	17133	Nil
Whole carcases con- demned	17	45	19	119	105	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2044	6100	33	342	1718	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	37.3	60.8	8.3	5.1	10.6	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases con- demned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	11	—	—	77	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ....	.163	.109	—	—	.455	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	20	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrig- eration	6	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Destroyed

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Carcases whole with offal	81	119	106	306
Forequarters	1	8	11	20
Hindquarters	10	7	31	48
Plucks	—	88	62	150
Heads and Tongues	127	2	95	224
Livers	6035	124	305	6464
Lungs	252	—	826	1078
Intestines	16	—	3	19
Miscellaneous	1815	113	488	2416
Meat	40 lbs.	6 lbs.	—	46 lbs.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREMISES :—

388 visits were made to premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, apply. No flagrant breaches of the Regulations were recorded, but numerous minor infringements were dealt with on the spot and where necessary followed up with a written warning. The following table gives details of the premises to which the Regulations apply :—

	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Grocers and General Dealers	85	83	79	77
Hotels, Public Houses and Licensed Clubs	79	78	79	79
Butchers	26	26	26	26
Fried Fish Shops	19	19	19	19
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	16	16	16	16
Bakers	14	14	14	14
Canteens	14	14	14	14
Confectioners	9	9	6	6
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	6	6	5	5
Off-Licences	5	5	4	4
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	5	5	5

UNFIT FOOD :—

The following complaints were received from members of the public who alleged that they had been sold food that they considered to be unfit. Each case was thoroughly investigated and where necessary, material was examined by the Public Analyst. The results of the investigations are given in the second column.

Complaint.

Result of investigation.

(a) Foreign bodies in food.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Cockroach in can of runner beans. | No firm conclusion reached. There was no infestation in the factory. |
| 2. Insect in cut loaf. | Insect was drugstore beetle. There were no signs of infestation in the bakery and the beetle may have arrived in the flour. |
| 3. Razor blade in packet of dried beans. | There was no proof that the blade had been in the packet of beans. |
| 4. Chocolate biscuit infested with maggots and beetles. | Biscuit was very old stock due to failure of stock rotation, probably at the retailers. |
| 5. Worm in chicken giblets. | "Worm" was a tendon from the neck. |
| 6. Fly in sliced loaf. | Loaf not baked in Boston. Standard of hygiene in bakery good but as a result of this complaint the method of insect destruction was altered. |
| 7. Foreign body in bottle of milk. | The object was a horse chestnut. |
| 8. Dried sage had "soapy smell". | Analyst agreed that sage had peculiar odour and flavour but could find no adulterant. |

(b) Food out of condition.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Corned beef with black speck. | Analyst reported that blackening was due to sulphide, probably caused by a hook being inserted in the beef before cooking. |
| 2. Corned beef discoloured. | Analyst reported that discolouration was due to damage to the tin coating allowing the meat to attack the iron of the can. |
| 3. Corned beef with black patch. | Analyst reported that discolouration was due to damage to the tin coating allowing the meat to attack the iron of the can. |
| 4. Pork Luncheon Meat with black spots. | Analyst reported that discolouration was due to damage to the tin coating allowing the meat to attack the iron of the can. |
| 5. Corned beef unsound. | There were no external indications of unsoundness and no pathogenic organisms were present. |
| 6. Apricot pie mouldy. | Bad stock rotation. |
| 7. Sausages tasted "peculiar". | Sausages fresh but contained fair amount of sage. |

POULTRY INSPECTION :—

There is one poultry packing station in the Borough and this deals almost exclusively with broilers. A small number of capons are processed near Christmas, these representing less than 1.0% of the total.

Number of visits to premises	... ..	230
Approximate total number of birds processed	... ..	3,049,700
Number of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	... ..	23,101
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	... ..	.8%
Weight of poultry rejected	... .. 25 tons 16 cwts.	

Inspection is carried out initially by members of the staff at the packing station who have been trained to spot abnormalities of carcasses and organs and who also reject poor or underweight birds. A Public Health Inspector visits the station daily, principally to check on hygienic practises but he also examines some of the rejected carcasses to identify the condition causing rejection.

This system can work only with the wholehearted co-operation of the management and I am pleased to say that this is readily given.

ACTION UNDER REGULATION 20, MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 :—

No action was necessary under the above Regulation during 1968.

FOOD POISONING :—

There were only 2 cases reported during the year both in the same family. The organism responsible was identified as Salmonella Enteritidis but the source of the infection was not found.

ICE-CREAM :—

There are five manufacturers of ice-cream in the town and 118 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. 11 samples were taken, the results being as follows :—

Number of samples classified Grade I	... ..	3
Number of samples classified Grade II	... ..	4
Number of samples classified Grade III	... ..	3
Number of samples classified Grade IV	... ..	1

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified and confirmed during the year and the numbers admitted to hospital.

Measles : There were 45 notified cases during the year. This was lower than the expected biennial drop and could well have been due to the effects of the immunisation programme.

Chicken Pox : This was the most prevalent disease but there were only 51 cases compared with 669 in 1967.

Dysentery : There was only 1 notified case during the year.

Pneumonia : There were 35 cases notified, 3 more than in the previous year.

Whooping Cough : There were 24 cases notified compared with 50 in 1967.

Poliomyelitis : 3 cases were notified during the year on clinical grounds and the Ministry of Health requested and were provided with details of all the cases.

Smallpox, Diphtheria, Typhoid and Paratyphoid : No cases were reported as occurring in the Borough during the year.

Scabies : 33 cases were notified as occurring in the Borough during the year, treatment for 21 patients being provided by their medical practitioners, whilst the remaining 12 cases were treated at Ferry House Clinic.

The Holland County Council provides treatment for cases of Scabies occurring in the Borough, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Corporation. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

In order to prevent the spread of Infectious Disease, International Regulations require travellers to be inoculated or vaccinated against certain specified diseases such as Smallpox, Cholera and Yellow Fever. Certificates to this effect are required to be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health and many such certificates have been completed during the year.

During the year the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968 were introduced which excluded some diseases from being statutorily notified for example Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Acute Rheumatism, etc., whilst Leptospirosis, Infective Jaundice, Tetanus and Yellow Fever were added to the list. Leptospirosis and Infective Jaundice had been notifiable in the Borough for several years as a result of an order made by the Council and approved by the Minister of Health.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1968.

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital
Acute Encephalitis :			
Post Infectious	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic	2	2	2
Non-Paralytic	1	1	1
Chicken Pox	51	51	1
Dysentery	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil
Food Poisoning	2	2	Nil
Infective Jaundice	12	12	1
Measles	45	45	2
Meningococcal Infection	3	3	3
Pneumonia.	35	35	1
Scabies	33	33	Nil
Scarlet Fever	8	8	Nil
Whooping Cough	24	24	3

Infectious Diseases notified 1959-1968.

Disease	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Chicken Pox	51	669	258	38	345	37	249	195	300	362
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	66	74	3	1	132	176	6	4	246
Encephalitis : (Post Infectious)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	3	5
Food Poisoning	2	6	1	14	2	1	7	13	6	13
Infective Jaundice ...	12	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (Con- tracted abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	45	455	104	597	84	242	251	486	87	633
Meningococcal Infection	3	—	—	1	2	1	4	4	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	35	32	38	37	13	25	29	39	26	42
Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scabies	33	38	23	8	10	6	—	—	3	—
Scarlet Fever	8	9	5	17	7	20	47	27	56	16
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	24	50	20	43	21	1	2	43	65	—

TUBERCULOSIS :—

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1959—1968.

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
1959	118	21	139	19	—	19	3	—	3
1960	122	26	148	16	5	21	4	—	4
1961	125	26	151	11	1	12	1	—	1
1962	128	26	154	8	2	10	2	—	2
1963	126	26	152	5	1	6	2	—	2
1964	123	27	150	8	2	10	5	—	5
1965	121	27	148	5	1	6	1	—	1
1966	120	28	148	6	1	7	2	—	2
1967	123	29	152	6	1	7	1	—	1
1968	120	29	149	4	—	4	3	—	3

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	72	14	51	15	152
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in year	2	—	1	—	3
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification	—	—	1	—	1
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year ...	5	—	2	—	7
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st Dec., 1968 ...	69	14	51	15	149

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION :—

All arrangements in connection with immunisation and vaccination within the Borough are under the control of the Holland County Council.

The following information has kindly been supplied by the County Health Department.

IMMUNISATION :—

Diphtheria :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	185
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	199
5-14 years	...	..	...	...	...	8
					—	392
Number of Booster Injections				826

Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus :

Under 5 years	384
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Percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria in relation to the child population at 31.12.68 :—

Under 1 year	42.3%
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VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES :—

Under 1 year	45
1 and under 5 years	336
5-15 years	223
							<hr/> 604 <hr/>

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :—

Primary Vaccinations :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
							<hr/> 248 <hr/>

Re-vaccinations :—

1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
							<hr/> 80 <hr/>

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :—

Number of persons who completed a course during the year	468
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR

PART II

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,
being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by
the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present to the Council the Annual Report of the Port Medical Officer of the Boston Port Health Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1968 in accordance with Regulation 12(4) of the Public Health Officers (Port Health Districts) Regulations, 1959. The report has, as usual, been prepared in accordance with the instructions laid down in Form Port 20 issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

During 1968 there was a decrease in the total number of ships entering the Port, 1,080 compared with 1,210 in 1967. This was a drop of 130, made up of 93 less from foreign ports and 37 coastwise. The total tonnage dropped from 282,438 in 1967 to 273,847 in 1968. The number of ships inspected increased slightly to a total of 131.

No cases of notifiable disease occurred in any of the ships while in Port and no ships reported that there had been any infectious disease on board during the voyage.

The principal ports from which ships arrived remained very much the same as in previous years as indeed did imports and exports.

During the year 27 Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued. It was not necessary to issue any Statutory notices in respect of nuisances.

The number of Inward passengers increased to 62 from 53 in 1967, and the number of Outward passengers increased to 57 compared with 28 in 1967.

I should again like to thank the Officers of H.M. Customs and Waterguard for their reports and co-operation, the Port Health Inspectors, the Port Manager and his staff and all the others connected with the Port for their assistance during 1968.

Yours faithfully,

G. HIRD.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6 Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

March, 1969.

SECTION I—Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
HIRD, G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1.5.58.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Assistant C.M.O.—Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health—Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health—Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G. E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15.10.45.	Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
MILSOM, D. H.	Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.	1.10.59.	Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
BOWRAN, C. D.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	17.7.67.	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
6 Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.
BOSTON 4601 (six lines).

SECTION II—Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspectors	
Foreign Ports	970	249,210	Nil	129	Nil
Coastwise	110	24,637	Nil	2	Nil
Total	1,080	273,847	Nil	131	Nil

SECTION III—Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	<p>Number of passengers INWARDS : 62</p> <p>Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 57</p>
CARGO TRAFFIC	<p>Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium Ingots, Bulbs, Deals, Battens and Boards, Fertilizers, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Perlite, Potatoes, Salt, Sand, Sleepers, Starch, Steel, Telegraph Poles and General.</p> <p>Principal EXPORTS : Cattle, Coal, Fertilizers, Grain, Pig Iron, Sand, Steel and General.</p>
FOREIGN PORTS from which ships arrive	<p>ALGERIA : Algiers.</p> <p>BALEARIC ISLANDS : Palma.</p> <p>BELGIUM : Antwerp, Ghent, Nieuport.</p> <p>BRAZIL : Sao Francisco Do Sul.</p> <p>CYPRUS : Famagusta.</p> <p>DENMARK : Esbjerg.</p> <p>FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Kasko, Mantyluoto, Pateniemi, Yxpila.</p> <p>FRANCE : Bayonne, Bordeaux, Dunkirk, Trequire.</p> <p>GERMANY : Bremen, Hamburg, Mannheim, Neuss, Wismar.</p> <p>GREECE : Milos.</p> <p>HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Flushing, Koog Aan De Zaan, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden.</p> <p>ICELAND : Rykjavik.</p> <p>MEXICO : Campeche.</p> <p>MOROCCO : Casablanca.</p> <p>NORWAY : Aardelstangen, Aaheim, Bergen, Christiansand, Haugesund, Mellos, Moss, Sundalsora, Tyssedal.</p> <p>POLAND : Danzig, Gdansk, Stettin, Koldbrzeg.</p> <p>PORTUGAL : Leixoes, Lisbon.</p> <p>RUMANIA : Constantza.</p> <p>RUSSIA : Archangel, Igarka, Leningrad, Onega.</p> <p>SARDINIA : Cagliari, Oristano.</p> <p>SICILY : Gela.</p> <p>SPAIN : Carthagen.</p> <p>SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Halmstad, Kalmar, Karlshamm, Köping, Norrköping, Ronneby.</p>

SECTION IV—Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V—Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

(a) **The District.**

(b) **Shipping.**

NO CHANGE.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

NO CHANGE.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

NO CHANGE.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VI—Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

NO CHANGE.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) **Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).**

(b) **Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2)).**

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

NO CHANGE.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

NO CHANGE.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

NO CHANGE.

5. Arrangements for :—

- (a) **Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox—see Section VII) :**

NO CHANGE.

- (b) **Surveillance and follow up of contacts :**

NO CHANGE.

- (c) **Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :**

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII—Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Hallwood Smallpox Hospital, Chapeltown. The administration of this Hospital is carried out from Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield.—Tel. No. Sheffield 33941.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

The transport of all cases of smallpox is the responsibility of the Leicester County Council who will provide ambulances together with specially trained and vaccinated crews.

3. Name of smallpox consultant available.

Dr. P. J. Moroney,
Consultant in Infectious Diseases,
Lodge Moor Hospital,
Sheffield, 10.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor K. McCarthy, Department of Bacteriology, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII—Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient clinics are conducted at Boston General Hospital, Boston, at 4.30 p.m. each Tuesday. If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient treatment can be arranged by the Consultant Venerealogist.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

SECTION IX—Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1968.

SECTION X—Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI—Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1968.

SECTION XII—Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln. but during 1968 no bodies were recovered from ships using the port.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	Nil.
Brown rats	Nil.
Species not known	Nil.
Sent for examination	Nil.
Infected with plague	Nil.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons	12
Ships from 301—1,000 tons	13
Ships from 1,001—3,000 tons	2
Total	27

SECTION XIII—Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Number of ships inspected : 131.

Nature of Nuisances.	Found	Remedied
Defects of Original Construction	1	—
Defects due to Wear and Tear ...	—	—
Dirt, Vermin, etc.	1	1

	Served	Complied with
Statutory Notices	Nil	Nil
Other Notices	2	1

SECTION XIV—Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds both within and without the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

Following the receipt from another authority of an adverse report on some Wash mussels, it was decided to take a series of samples from various points in the mussel beds to try to determine which areas could be safely worked. These had not been completed by the end of the year when bad weather necessitated the suspension of operations. Certain areas were found that appeared to be free of pollution but generally the mussels in these beds were of poor quality.

SECTION XV—Medical Inspection of Aliens.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XVI—Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

NO CHANGE.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The principal food imports were as follows :—

Commodity	Tons
Grain (in)	56,737
Potatoes	17,633
Onions	16,150
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	11,115
Starch	8,679
Glucose	6,028
Milk in Tins	4,210
Vegetables in Tins	3,124
Fruit in Tins	1,245
Honey	1,227
Tomato Puree	1,074
Vegetables in Brine	480
Dehydrated Vegetables	451
Dates	240
Meat in Tins	218
Ground Nuts	35
Capsicum	29
Ravioli	28
Macaroni in Tins	26
Butter	22
Beer	20
Wines	7
Miscellaneous	7

Food re-exported.

Grain	19,969
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During the year the following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit and were destroyed :—

Potatoes	132 tons	9 cwt.	0 qrs.
Onions	19 tons	6 cwt.	0 qrs.
Dutch White Cabbage	2 tons	4 cwt.	0 qrs.

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